2017 National Geospatial Data Asset (NGDA) Dataset Report
U.S. Coastal Lidar Elevation Data - Including the Great Lakes and Territories, 1996 - present

Introduction:

This report aggregates information related to the National Geospatial Data Asset (NGDA) in the title above. In order to be designated an NGDA, the dataset must meet the criteria outlined in the Office of Management and Budget OMB Circular A-16 Supplemental Guidance. The guidance also directs Federal agencies to implement and use a portfolio management approach to ensure NGDA Datasets are managed by officially designated agencies, on behalf of all users, as national capital assets. As part of this process, the NGDA Dataset Managers regularly assess the maturity of their NGDA Datasets based on the geospatial data lifecycle and agency business requirements. All NGDA Datasets are assessed uniformly using a set of benchmark questions and a maturity index. This report includes results from the 2017 Lifecycle Maturity Assessment (LMA) which will be used to inform NGDA Dataset Managers about priorities and will be aggregated into a Theme Summary Report for NGDA Theme Leads.

NGDA Dataset Details:

Official Title: U.S. Coastal Lidar Elevation Data - Including the Great Lakes and Territories, 1996 - present
Metadata Record Title*: U.S. Coastal Lidar Elevation Data - Including The Great Lakes And Territories, 1996 - Present

Theme: Elevation

Dataset Lead Agency: U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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* If the metadata has been updated and re-harvested after publication of this report, the link may no longer be valid. The NGDA Dataset may be searched for manually in Data.gov or GeoPlatform.gov using the metadata record title.

2017 Lifecycle Maturity Assessment (LMA)

Reporting on the status of each NGDA Dataset is an OMB requirement, and assessing the developmental maturity of the NGDA provides managers the ability to support NGDA Datasets in a more universal and transparent manner. The LMA is based on the OMB Circular A-16 seven stages of the geospatial data lifecycle with associated benchmark activities for each stage. Each benchmark has a range of activities, from no activity to significant activity, which provide the interpretation of maturity for that benchmark. The cumulative level of activity determines the maturity of the each NGDA Dataset and is based on a Maturity Matrix and How to Calculate Maturity. Additional information can be found at the GeoPlatform.gov 2017 Lifecycle Maturity Assessment (LMA) community web page.

2017 LMA Questions and Responses

The 2017 LMA includes a series of questions about the benchmark activities within each lifecycle stage, an explanation of specific actions that might be used to accomplish the benchmark activity (clarifying statements), and a series of status metrics in the form of response options. The NGDA Dataset Manager selects the response option that most accurately describes the current maturity level for the NGDA they manage. The responses to all the questions, and their associated metrics, collectively determine the overall maturity of an individual NGDA. The 2017 LMA consists of 3 general questions and 20 maturity questions. An additional 12 questions justify response choices to the 20 maturity questions. The questions are organized across the seven stages of the geospatial data lifecycle or pertain to all lifecycle stages. The detailed 2017 LMA questions can be found in the National Geospatial Dataset Asset 2017 Lifecycle Maturity Assessment document.

General Questions for All Stages

0) Part 1: Is this dataset considered "active" or "static"?
Response: The dataset is considered active - the dataset is being actively updated and maintained and has active components in some or all of the 7 Lifecycle Stages (with the exception of the Archival Stage)

0) Part 2: For the 2017 LMA, please provide what time frame the assessment includes?
Response: For an NGDA that completed the baseline assessment, responses include dataset activities from 2015 to 2017

0) Part 3: Do you have a process to evaluate the dataset to determine if it continues to meet the criteria established for a National Geospatial Data Asset (NGDA)?
Response: Yes

1) Is there a recurring process to obtain funding for all lifecycle stages of this dataset?
Response: Funding support exists but is not adequate to meet known requirements, most lifecycle stages are supported

1.a) To justify your response to Question 1, what is the primary funding source for your NGDA?
Response: Federal agency - General lead agency budgetary funding for a specific program that supports this NGDA or the NGDA itself

1.b) To further justify your response to Question 1, do you have secondary source(s) of funding?
Response: No

2) Is there a process in place to ensure that open government and transparency guidelines are followed in all lifecycle stages for this dataset?
Response: Implementation well established

3) Are there processes and tools in place so that staff are sufficiently knowledgeable to ensure the continuity of the dataset for all stages of the lifecycle, especially during staffing transition?
Response: Implementation well established

STAGE 1 - Define/Plan
Characterization of data requirements based upon business-driven user needs.

4) Are business requirements defined and formalized?
Response: Implementation well established

5) Are there processes in place to ensure partners and stakeholders are involved in requirements collection?
Response: Implementation well established

5.a) To justify your response to Question 5, which external partners and stakeholders are involved in the requirements collection process?
    Federal agency - Partners and stakeholders are participants from other federal agencies
    Tribal government - Partners and stakeholders are participants from tribal governments
    State government - Partners and stakeholders are participants from state governments
    Local government - Partners and stakeholders are participants from local governments
    International - Partners and stakeholders are participants from international governments or organizations
    Academia - Partners and stakeholders are participants from academic institutions
    Professional association - Partners and stakeholders are participants from professional associations
    Non-profit organization - Partners and stakeholders are participants from non-profit organizations
    Private sector - Partners and stakeholders are participants from private sector organizations

6) Is there a quality assurance process for the dataset?
Response: Implementation well established

6.a) To justify your response to Question 6, what methods are used to develop and complete quality assurance assessments?
    Internal quality assurance assessment - A defined review process is undertaken by agency personnel through quality evaluation, testing, or other manual or automated methods
    External quality assurance assessment - Third-party organizations undertake a quality review or evaluation. This can be partners, stakeholders, and/or users reviewing the dataset to assure that requirements are being met

7) Has an assessment been done to evaluate the sensitivity, privacy, and confidentiality of this dataset?
Response: Implementation well established

8) Are defined data standards used in collecting, processing, and/or rendering the data?
Response: Implementation well established

8.a) To justify your response to Question 8, what types of data standards are used in collection, processing, and/or rendering the data?

FGDC-endorsed standards in use: Content Standard for Digital Geospatial Metadata

Standards not endorsed by FGDC in use: Individual dataset specific; ASPRS LAS Format Specification, ASPRS Positional Accuracy Standards for Digital Geospatial Data , USGS Lidar Base Specification, IHO Standards for Hydrographic Surveys

STAGE 2 - Inventory/Evaluate

The creation and publication of a detailed list of data assets and data gaps (both internal and external) as they relate to business-driven user need.

9) Is an assessment done to determine if data necessary to meet requirements already exists from other sources (either within or outside the agency) before collecting or acquiring new data?

Response: Implementation well established

9.a) To justify your response to Question 9, what actions are performed to determine if data already exists from other sources?

Internal research and evaluation - The lead federal agency conducts research to identify whether other potential sources and datasets exist, including GeoPlatform.gov Marketplace research

External research and evaluation - External stakeholders and partners conduct research to identify whether other potential sources and datasets exist

Financial cost/impacts evaluation - Datasets identified that may meet mission requirements undergo review for potential financial costs or savings

STAGE 3 - Obtain

The collection, purchase, conversion, transformation, sharing, exchanging, or creation of geospatial data that were selected to meet the business needs is identified.

10) Is there a process for obtaining data for this dataset?

Response: Implementation well established

10.a) To justify your response to Question 10, what actions are performed to obtain data?

Obtain data by purchasing

Obtain data by modifying, converting, or transforming data

Obtain data by sharing/exchanging

Obtain data by creating and/or collecting the data

11) Is the metadata in an FGDC-endorsed geospatial metadata standard, follows the NGDA Metadata Guidelines, and is published?

Response: Published and implementation of NGDA Metadata Guidelines well established

12) Part 1: Is there a business process in place to determine the geographic coverage of the dataset and establish milestones to track progress towards completion?

Response: Implementation well established

12) Part 2: Based on the business requirements, what is the estimated completeness of the geographic coverage?
Response: Geographic coverage is more than 75% but less than 100% complete based on business requirements

12.a) To justify your response to Question 12 Part 2, what is the geographic coverage of the dataset as defined by the business requirements?
Response: US oceans and coastal areas - Geographic coverage is US oceans and coastal areas on and off shore including maritime administrative boundaries at the applicable resolution(s)

STAGE 4 - Access
Making data produced known and retrievable to the community through documentation and discovery mechanisms so the users can meet their business requirements.

13) Do you provide users access to the data in a digital machine-readable format?
Response: Implementation well established

13.a) To justify your response to Question 13, what types of digital machine-readable formatted web services or data download services are available for this dataset?
ArcGIS Image Server
SHP - Shapefile
CAD - Computer-Aided Design (Examples DWG or DXF)
ASCII - American Standard Code for Information Interchange
Geospatial TIFF - Geographic Tagged Image File Format
Other Download - LAZ, LAS, Erdas Imagine (.IMG)

STAGE 5 - Maintain
The ongoing processes and procedures to ensure that the data meet business requirements.

14) Is there a maintenance process in place for this dataset?
Response: Implementation well established

15) Is there a quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC) process as part of this dataset's maintenance?
Response: Implementation well established

STAGE 6 - Use/Evaluate
The ongoing assessment, validation, and potential enhancement of data to meet user needs and business requirements.

16) Is there a process to determine if the dataset meets user needs?
Response: Implementation well established

17) Is there a process to provide users information on how to evaluate and properly use the dataset?
Response: Implementation well established

18) Do the business processes and management practices include an assessment of changing technology?
Response: Implementation well established

STAGE 7 - Archive

Facilitate the selection/appraisal retention, storage, preservation and accessibility of geospatial content with long-term value (or the disposition of material as appropriate) and establish mechanisms for the coordinated development of stewardship tools and services across all impacted Federal agencies.

19) Is there an archiving appraisal process for the dataset?
Response: Implementation well established

19.a) To justify your response to Question 19, where is digital data being archived as determined by your appraisal process outcome?
   Archived at an archive facility (NARA approved)

19.b) To justify your response to Question 19, where is printed data being archived as determined by your appraisal process outcome?
   Archived at an archive facility (NARA approved)

LMA Submission and Reviewer Information

LMA Submission:
    Status: Complete
    Date: 8/2/2017

Submitted by:
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Reviewed by:
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    Date: 8/2/2017

LMA Maturity Overview

Each of the 20 maturity question responses was assigned a maturity level based on a Maturity Matrix. The maximum level of maturity (Optimized; Established) is level (5) and the least level of maturity (No Activity) is level (0). The question response maturity was then averaged across each lifecycle stage to determine the stage maturity as described in How to Calculate Maturity. The table below shows the numerical maturity levels with their corresponding descriptions and characteristics.

Maturity	Maturity Characteristics for All Lifecycle Stages
Optimized; Established Level = 5	Dataset meets virtually all business needs of all users. The dataset is considered authoritative by owners and secondary users. It is curated across all stages of the approved lifecycle. Future needs are defined for both the primary owner and secondary users on a regular basis and resources for addressing both current and future business requirements are available.
Mature; Consistent Level = 4	Dataset meets all the business needs of the primary owner and most of the secondary users. The dataset is curated and used as an authoritative resource by the primary owner and secondary users. Future needs are being identified and steps are planned to address these. All stages are supported and reviewed on a recurring basis. The dataset is well managed in relation to the approved lifecycle.
Managed; Predictable Level = 3	Dataset meets a significant number of the business needs of the primary owner and is widely used by secondary users. Benchmark activities are occurring in at least four of the approved lifecycle stages. Management practices in relation to the approved lifecycle is moderate but consistent. Dataset is integrating changing business requirements in lifecycle stages impacting overall maturity.
Transition; Transformation Level = 2	Dataset meets business needs of the primary owner and has moderate use by secondary users. Benchmark activities are occurring in at least three stages. Efforts to integrate funding, include partners, and obtain data are not supported in a sustained manner. Management practices in relation to the stages of the approved lifecycle is limited.
Planned; Initial Development Level = 1	Dataset in initial planning or limited in meeting business needs of the primary owner. Benchmark activities in the approved lifecycle are just starting to consider secondary uses, Partners/stakeholders involvement is being defined and developed to support additional dataset uses. Dataset development is in a very early stage. Minimal or limited management against the benchmarks in the approved lifecycle.
No Activity Level = 0	Dataset not developed or meets project/local business needs of the primary owner. Secondary, additional uses, or partners/stakeholders were not considered. Dataset is not recognized as authoritative data or is part of a similar dataset. Not managed to any of the benchmarks in the approved lifecycle.

Table 1: 2017 Maturity Matrix.

2017 NGDA Dataset Maturity Results

Based on the maturity question responses, an overall maturity level was calculated for this NGDA, along with maturity calculations for the general questions for all stages and each discrete lifecycle stage as shown in Table 2 below.

Maturity Categories	Maturity Level
Overall NGDA Maturity	**4 - Mature; Consistent**
General Questions for All Stages	4 - Mature; Consistent
Stage 1: Plan/Define	4 - Mature; Consistent
Stage 2: Inventory/Evaluate	4 - Mature; Consistent
Stage 3: Obtain	4 - Mature; Consistent
Stage 4: Access	4 - Mature; Consistent
Stage 5: Maintain	4 - Mature; Consistent
Stage 6: Use/Evaluate	4 - Mature; Consistent
Stage 7: Archive	4 - Mature; Consistent

Table 2: 2017 Maturity Results.

LMA Process Changes Between 2015 and 2017

In 2015, a baseline assessment of National Geospatial Data Assets (NGDA) was performed for each of the NGDA Datasets in the federal geospatial portfolio. Information related to the 2015 baseline LMA can be found at 2015 NGDA Lifecycle Maturity Assessment, which also includes a link to the 2015 Reports. A follow up analysis of the 2015 LMA baseline process and its results identified ways to improve the LMA workflow, increase efficiency as well as decrease reporting burden. Several recommendations were identified and implemented in 2017, which included improvements to normalize the responses in 2017. A secondary effect of improvements to normalization is that results from 2017 and 2015 are not directly comparable. These changes, and their impacts, are detailed in the webpage: Temporal Changes in Lifecycle Maturity Assessment (LMA) Maturity and Results Comparisons.